4-A-2

Hawley, L

Five ways to think about or address changes in technology in your classroom and school.

1. Use of student gurus to help foster learning activities

A student in class who has developed or has nearly developed mastery in the subject being taught could be given the task of finding a way to incorporate “cool” technology into the curriculum. Examples may include a review game, used of smartphones etc.

1. On-line courses

My high school building is going to start offering on-line courses next year and we just finished the course recommendation process. Many students were interested in this possibility. The course would require 1-2 face-to-face meetings a week and the rest would be on-line. Our district is trying to adapt to the Net Generation.

1. Addressing the “Resistance Phase”.

Kapp explains that the Net Generation is a very confident group. Many teachers are also resistant to change and the confidence that the Net Generation has with technology does not help, as it seems like there are new teaching strategies incorporated yearly in many districts without the ample time of mastering one strategy at a time. My district has implemented a “tech” day in the beginning of each school year where teachers can sign up to learn new tools like Moodle, Blogging, Web 2.0 class, PowerPoint etc. I’ve been much less resistant to incorporating these tools (except Blogging) as I’ve ben given time to learn within the school setting rather than on my own. I would highly recommend this to other districts.

1. Biotechnology

We have a biotech unit embedded within our Biology curriculum. Student become very motivated as this unit focuses mostly on their strengths with using technology to research, problem solve, and create solutions. Students are able to watch videos and create opinions on the pros and cons of using biotechnology to mass-produce crops like corn and rice. They are challenged to think critically regarding the impacts biotechnology may have on a struggling country.

1. Paying Bills

I would love to see our business department purchase software that would enable students to have practice with paying bills online. I would also be beneficial for them to track their checking and saving accounts online, order checks, transfer money etc. By the time the current students reach the real world, there will be little use of paper billing. Let’s use the technology that they enjoy so much to prepare them for the real world.